should pass a resolution on the subject and place concrete proposals before the Government. When that is done, Government will take the necessary action.

109. Needs of Alleppey.

Mr. M. L. Janardanan Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Alleppey) represented that the progress made in connection with the repair of the Alleppey Commercial canal was very slow, and that at that rate of progress it would take about twenty years for the completion of that work. The work was now proceeding from the Eastern Chungam and it had only reached Puttanangadi. The work was begun during the administration of Sir P. Rajagopalachari. It was highly necessary that the construction of the canal should proceed from the western end to the east, *i. e.*, from near the beach eastward. The Member requested that the construction of the canal might be completed as early as possible.

If the Port of Alleppey was to be of any use, it was essential that there should be more store houses. That matter had been represented to the Government on former occasions and the Dewan himself had seen the place and recognised its need. European Companies generally acquired lands near the beach and the Member said that it was folly to sell lands to such companies. The Commercial canal itself has silted up here and there. Those who understood the situation of Alleppey could not ignore the importance of that canal and it was necessary to clear it of silt.

The Member also urged the necessity of constructing a foot bridge between Marapalam and Chungam and another between the iron bridge and the church bridge.

Alleppey was a small town and the population was daily increasing. Although there were places convenient for living, such places could not be availed of owing to lack of roads to reach them. When those matters were brought to the notice of the Government, they generally referred them to the Municipality. The Municipality was not rich enough to undertake such expensive works as the construction of roads, etc. As far as possible, Government themselves should do such works without seeking the partnership of Municipalities.

Again, Alleppey was not a healthy place to live in, and to improve its sanitary condition was, in the Member's opinion, one of the duties of the Government. Dr. Alexander was investigating the diseases caused by mosquitoes and other insects. But he had not yet proceeded to Alleppey. There were many places in Alleppey where mosquitoes and other dangerous insects throve, and it was necessary that a doctor should be sent to investigate the subject. As Alleppey was a port, a town-planning officer should be appointed there. The Member stated in conclusion that the work of the Haripad-Ambalapuzha road should be completed.

President's reply.—With regard to the speedy completion of the Commercial Canal works, the Chief Engineer says that these works will be expedited. It will be started from the pier end when the next section is taken up, and if possible, work will be arranged for in both directions.

Re. the construction of more godowns, Government have ordered that estimates should be prepared. Government will ask the Chief Engineer to expedite the submission of the estimates.

As regards the removal of silt in the unimproved portion of the canal Government will issue orders to the P. W. D. to maintain the Commercial Canal properly, and keep it clear of silt.

With respect to the construction of foot bridges on the Commercial Canal, Government have already said that the Municipality should consider such subjects relating to municipal areas and make definite recommendations to Government. You will have to pass a resolution in your Municipal Council on the matter and send it up to the Government for their consideration.

With regard to the construction of roads also, I may tell you that, in a matter like this, the Municipality should take the initiative.

The next point you referred to was the deputation of a Medical Officer (you mentioned the name of Dr. Alexander) to investigate the cause of the diseases men-

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tioned by you. Dr. Alexander has been deputed to Mallappalli to investigate the disease known as "yaws". After his return, he will be sent to Alleppey.

As regards the appointment of a special officer for town-planning, your remarks are noted.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH, MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND MEDICAL RELIEF.

2. MEDICAL RELIEF.

110. Administration of the Medical Department.

Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (Member, Vilavankod taluk) began by saying that medical relief, being essentially a charity of His Highness the Maha Raja, the poor had greater claims to it than others, but that fact was sadly forgotten by the officers who were in charge of the Medical Department. The Member then referred to a statement made by the Dewan in his first Address to the Popular Assembly that, since the appointment of Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan as the head of the Medical Department 'a great deal' had been done. With a view to disprove that statement, the Member dealt with certain features of the Medical Department. The first point he touched upon was the substitution of cheaper and ineffective medicines in the place of santonine and other effective worm-killing remedies freely distributed to the poor in the past. He also stated that pregnant women received little or no benefit from qualified midwives and lamented the want of accommodation available in medical institutions for poor women in labor. Though Government had admitted the scarcity of trained midwives, they were not prepared to accept a proposal brought in the Legislative Council for the training of a larger number of women in midwifery. Then he referred to the want of medicines of all kinds in the Government Hospitals and the inordinate delay in the supply of medicines from the Medical Stores. To illustrate this point he referred to an article in the *Trivandrum Daily News* which stated that certain school boys found on medical examination to be suffering from itch were sent to the hospital and they were sent back with chits to purchase medicines from medicine-vendors. He asserted that the transfer of Dr. Raman Tampi from the General Hospital to the Nayar Brigade Hospital and the posting of Dr. Ponnuswami Pillai to the General Hospital were not in the best interests of the people and that the arrangement had not given satisfaction to the public. Further, he stated that the X-ray Department had become a neglected chapter in the medical administration of the State. He also alluded to the punishment inflicted upon the Bacteriologist for refusing to dissect dead bodies when he was preparing vaccines for injection into living human bodies and characterised it as unjust and illegal.

The Member next spoke at length on the impropriety of posting male medical officers, especially young men in the Victoria Hospital, Quilon, and requested that the present medical man might be transferred from that hospital forthwith. He prayed for an assurance from the Government that, if the present women doctors there were found unequal to their duties, they would go in for abler women and never for young men in an institution where large numbers of girls were under training and their instruction included demonstrations on anatomy and physiology.

The Member then pointed out how poorly the disease known as "yaws" was treated in the Government hospitals and what amount of discontent was prevalent among the subordinates of the Medical Department on account of the freedom of private practice allowed to the head of the department and the position of undue advantage occupied by him in entering into unhealthy competition with his subordinates. The Member pointed out that in spite of repeated interpellations and discussions in the Legislative Council the administrative head of the Medical Department was still having private practice. He also added that the Hospitals for Mental Diseases and Lepers were mismanaged, without any regard to the welfare of the inmates and advocated the appointment of a board of visitors without delay. He objected to the location of the small-pox hospital in Quilon. He also criticised the circular issued by the Darbar Physician asking his subordinates to send a list of books they were reading and the power of the Darbar Physician to transfer officers drawing Rs. 200, and concluded that the administration of the Medical Department was not successful. He pointed out that it could not be understood why the travelling allowance bills of the Darbar Physician were immune from check.

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